

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING

BROOKLYN CITY COUNCIL

December 8, 2014

7:00 p.m.

Present: Kathy Pucci
Kevin Tanski
Andy Celcherts
Katie Gallagher
Tony DeMarco

Absent: Ron Van Kirk
Mary Balbier

Pledge of Allegiance.

SWEARING-IN:

Mayor Balbier administered the Oath of Office and swore in Kyle Pitts as Police Officer in the City of Brooklyn.

President Gallagher reported that the Council, Mayor and Finance Dir. met last Thursday, Dec. 4th at 6:30 p.m. to continue budget discussions, to wrap up the process early in the year. Thanked everyone who came yesterday to celebrate the Holiday Gathering at the Senior Center, Skate with Santa at the Recreation Center, and the Christmas brunch at the Historical Society; everything was wonderful. The Agenda is short, with a few new items: liquor permit request from Dollar General for beer only; change order request for locker room renovations; a Resolution advance taxes from 2014 proceeds from tax levies. The Service Dir. gave a letter explaining the change order request, for \$3,853.80 to install conduit sealant and shock blasting due to excessive moisture, which will help preserve the warranty coverage. Reminded that judges will be out looking at Christmas lights this week to see who will win the annual Christmas Lighting Contest. Santa will be coming to the streets in Brooklyn Saturday and Sunday starting at noon each day. A detailed description of the route is on the city's website or Facebook page. The Mayor will give an update on the news of Hugo Boss leaving the city.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Pucci, second by Gallagher to approve the minutes from the meeting of September 8, 2014, as amended with changes to pg. 3 (should say 'on the back burner *for many years*' in reference to the splash pad). **VOTE RESULTED:** *Approve, as amended:* Yes: Pucci, Tanski, Celcherts, Gallagher, DeMarco. No: None. **(APPROVED)**

PUBLIC SESSION:

Victor Ardito of 7439 Outlook Ave. complimented the EMS for helping with a medical emergency for a neighbor. Asked about the existing yellow lines on Ridge in front of the Library, if they will be removed so people don't get confused. Dir. Verba said, again, it's temporary striping, the permanent will be done in the spring; he will get back to him.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS & BOARDS:

Finance Committee (Councilwoman Pucci): The Comm. met at 6:30 (reminded they are open to the public) and addressed the following: recommended approve the Change Order for the Rec Center; Res. #7, second reading for the Bd. of Health contract; on second reading; adoption of Res. #8, for tax advances; adoption of Ord. #68 and #69 (both for repealing 5% cap on salaries for non-union administrative employees, which the Mayor will look at each employee individually and determine what raises would be). Thanked Dir.

Claussen, he was asked last meeting to prepare a report on the Health Committee results; he provided it yesterday.

Recreation Board (Councilman Tanski): The next Rec. Bd. meeting is Dec. 15th at 7 p.m. in the Rec Center meeting room, a change in location.

Zoning Bd. of Appeals (Comm. Kulcsar): The next Board meeting is Dec. 18th at 6 p.m. in the conference room to hear from ARL Transport for three variances for parking area at 8215 Clinton Rd.

Planning Commission (Councilwoman Gallagher): The Commission met Thurs., Dec. 4th and passed requests from: Agile Sign and Lighting Maintenance to install illuminated LED wall-mounted sign for business identification of Check-n-Go at 4660 Ridge Rd.; a request from Rough Neon and Lighting Maintenance to install illuminated LED wall-mounted sign for business identification of North Shore Gastroenterology and Endoscopy at 7580 Northcliff.

School Board (Councilman Celcherts): The Bd. met for a special mtg. on Dec. 1st to discuss: 2015-16 school calendar, a data sharing agreement with Case Western Reserve (for a confidential database to help facilitate needs of students), school based healthcare being supplied by the Cleve. Clinic weekly, with details to be worked out. Provided an update of the District finances, mostly relating to a 6 mil operating levy next year, to the voters in May. Other items that took place are available on the School's website, the Board of Education tab, then BoardDocs. There are various concerts upcoming with band and choir, information available from the school. Reminded that Brooklyn Community Cares Holiday Wishes runs through Dec. 12th, contact Ms. Marquis at 216-485-8191, ext 8232. Upcoming athletic events are also on the School's website. The next Board meeting is Dec. 16th in room 173, open to the public.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL:

Kathy Pucci: Offered condolences to Mrs. Finowski on the passing of her daughter Kim. Congratulated new Officer Kyle Pitts. Council had a second budget meeting last Thursday, for over three hours, where they reviewed requests from department heads, and are waiting some responses from questions. Thanked Dir. Enovitch and Mrs. Haig for all their efforts, compiling information and then going through each department. Council's plan is to adopt the 2015 Temporary Appropriations at the next meeting, then meet in January with directors and finalize and hopefully adopt the permanent budget by the end of February, ahead of the March 31st deadline. As she stated at the beginning of the process, we have to begin reducing expenditures in 2015, and not wait till 2016 and absorb reductions from decreased revenues in 2016 and 17. Thanked all the city employees who decorated city properties for the holiday, it looks great.

Kevin Tanski: A Sustainability Comm. mtg. held earlier in the year discussed a five year plan on maintaining/possibly replacing htg/cooling systems in buildings. He wants to see that in place so we have the funds to efficiently maintain our operating systems. Council needs to proactively sit and discuss a plan to benefit the city, making our infrastructure more efficient and reliable. He cited from a letter from Johnson Controls that addresses some of those issues (utilities on the rise, backlog of infrastructure maintenance or replacement, the approach allowed by the Revised Code for municipalities to address these items through various procedures). He also cited from an energy efficiency and equipment review they visually conducted, with short-term concerns of equipment (boilers and water heaters at Rec Center, City Hall, Police Station).

Andy Celcherts: On Nov. 25th he spoke to about 530 students at Career Day at the High School, where he spoke about classes he took in high school, his career plans then, and progressing to a career, and then City Council. Reminded the Fire Dept. holds a spaghetti dinner benefit for Andrew Star and family, Dec. 12th, 4-8 p.m., \$6 adults, \$4 seniors, \$2 6-under, with proceeds to the Star family, with the event at LaVilla Party Center on Brookpark Rd. Andrew is a six year old battling cancer, and the fundraiser is to offset medical costs. Donations are also accepted.

Tony DeMarco: Thanked Rita Enovitch and the Senior Center staff and the seniors for allowing him to participate in their Christmas party last week, it was a fantastic lunch. Wanted to send a message to the elected leaders on the School Board that they have an important election coming up, and hiring of a new

superintendent; he hopes they are prudent in the skills and expertise in the position, and the total compensation package for the individual.

Katie Gallagher: Councilman Van Kirk asked her to pass along from Cleveland Baptist Church the invitation to residents to attend Christmas in Brooklyn on Sat., Dec. 20th at 6 p.m. at the Community-Senior Center for a musical and dramatic performance. It is a free event and designed for the entire family. For questions call 216-671-2822. She thanked the Mayor the Mayor's secretary, Jill Ludwig, and Councilwoman Balbier for helping with the Holiday Gathering yesterday. Councilwoman Balbier baked 600 cookies on Saturday; and Jill pretty much puts everything together for the event every year. Briefly spoke on the repealing of the salary caps for non-bargaining unit members; that she asked for it because some of those persons' salaries have been stagnant for years, while their healthcare has gone up, and workers around them receive pay increases. We need to treat all our employees consistently, whether bargaining or not, though said with caution. Though we should be fair to all employees, she's not in favor of directors receiving exorbitant salary increases just because they're not bound by collective bargaining agreements. Plus, there's no type of performance evaluation in the city, and can't explain to employees what appears to be arbitrary increases. She is voting on this repeal because it's not fair to keep holding a few employees down just because she disagrees with some of the Mayor's past decisions. She wants to be clear on it, and not have her view misinterpreted.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Balbier: As mentioned, Hugo Boss is leaving; he received a letter from them last Tuesday, that they no longer will be doing manufacturing the United States, and plan on moving out April 30th. It will affect approximately 170 employees. He's been in contact with their workers' union and Mary Kaptur's and Sherrod Brown's offices. If anything new breaks he will inform, but there is nothing to report right now. Attended the Christmas gathering, and everyone performed beautifully. Thanked the volunteers and Jill for putting it together. As stated, judging for the Christmas lighting displays will be done, and awards given out at the next Council meeting. This past Friday the third graders from Brookridge and St. Thomas More came to decorate the tree at City Hall, and they come into the Council Chambers and ask him all kinds of questions, and get a tour of City Hall.

DIRECTORS REPORTS:

Rec. Mgr. McGinty: Reminded everyone of their holiday hours: Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve open from 8-3 p.m.; Christmas Day and New Year's Day they are closed.

Finance Dir. Enovitch: Year to date, General Fund, revenue is \$17,921,527; expenditures are \$15,381,325. He wonders what these numbers will be in 2016 and 2017 if we don't replace the loss of American Greetings; that we might not say our revenues exceed our expenses by 1.5M, and possibly be the other way around, unless we continue being proactive in being more efficient and reduce expenses. Fund balances today: unencumbered is \$10,721,431.13; total all fund is \$23,019,110.20. Thanked Council for their cooperation in moving the budget forward. He kept saying there should be no reason to not having a close to permanent budget done by the end of the year; and with Council's cooperation we're very close to having it done by January.

Fire Chief Zemek: The spaghetti dinner was already spoken about. Said they obtained some smoke detectors, and those residents in need should stop by the Fire Station with an ID proving residency, and they'll issue one to them.

Police Chief Mielke: Expanded on the visit from Santa Claus. The Auxiliaries will be out, Saturday starting at noon, streets south of Biddulph, the Acres, and streets east of Ridge; Sunday at noon, streets north of Biddulph, Westbrooks, Hammond, Outlook area. Bring the little ones out for a treat when he comes. He thanked for the auxiliaries for all their work they do all year, not just for the Police and Santa, but for himself.

Bldg. Comm. Kulcsar: Application deadline for Asst. Bldg. Comm. position was Dec. 1st; seven applications were received, with three meeting the minimum qualifications. Interviews will be scheduled within the next week.

Law Dir. Claussen: Reminded everyone to be aware of scams during this holiday time, even by e-mail. And if purchasing through someone on the internet be careful where you meet someone for that. Cautioned also against giving your credit card information in these instances, especially if someone makes it an urgency matter.

President Gallagher said she forgot that some residents asked her about signs down on Ridge and 480, and Dir. Verba said he would get in contact with the County and ODOT. Hopefully that will be resolved and the signs up soon. She also spoke to Chief Mielke about the liquor permit for Dollar General, and he has no objection to it. She was concerned about the alcohol permit saturation in that area, but he has no concern about it, and legally Council cannot deny it for arbitrary reasons.

REQUESTS:

Liquor permit request for Dollar General (Biddulph Plaza). Councilman DeMarco asked the Chief if the State issued a new permit for them, and also is there cap for our city? Chief Mielke said this is a retail walk-out permit, similar to Giant Eagle or a convenient store, and they are not limited, like a bar is. President Gallagher said if Council did vote it down, they have until Dec. 22nd to have something postmarked for it. **MOTION** by Pucci, second by Celcherts for a position of No Objection. **VOTE RESULTED:** *To Approve:* Yes: Pucci, Tanski, Celcherts, Gallagher, DeMarco. No: None. **(NO OBJECTION)**

Request for a Change Order for Rec Center locker room renovations – flooring. **MOTION** by Pucci, second by Celcherts to authorize the Change Order for \$3,853.46. **VOTE RESULTED:** *To Approve:* Yes: Pucci, Tanski, Celcherts, Gallagher, DeMarco. No: None. **(APPROVED)**

LEGISLATION:

RESOLUTION 2014-7, Authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with the District Board of Health of Cuyahoga County for Health Services for the year 2015. Amount is \$43,782. **(SECOND READING)**

RESOLUTION 2014-8, Requesting the County Fiscal Officer to advance taxes from the proceeds of the 2014 tax levies, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 321.34. **MOTION** by Pucci, second by Tanski to Suspend the Rules. **VOTE RESULTED:** *Suspend the Rules:* Yes: Pucci, Tanski, Celcherts, Gallagher, DeMarco. No: None. *To Adopt:* Yes: Pucci, Tanski, Celcherts, Gallagher, DeMarco. No: None. **(ADOPTED)**

ORDINANCE 2014-68, Repealing Sect. 1 of Ord. 2012-6, as amended, relating to compensation for full-time and administrative employees in non-bargaining agreement. **MOTION** by Pucci, second by Celcherts to Adopt. **VOTE RESULTED:** *To Adopt:* Yes: Pucci, Tanski, Celcherts, Gallagher, DeMarco. No: None. **(ADOPTED)**

ORDINANCE 2014-69, Repealing Sect. 1 of Ord. 2012-22, relating to the compensation for the part-time position of Economic Development Director. **MOTION** by Celcherts, second by Pucci to Adopt. **VOTE RESULTED:** *To Adopt:* Yes: Pucci, Tanski, Celcherts, Gallagher. No: DeMarco. **(ADOPTED)**

Pres. Gallagher said Council will go into Executive Session to discuss matters relating to negotiations with the Mayor, Finance and Law Directors.

Councilwoman Pucci asked Chief Mielke to work with Jill Ludwig and make sure our dispatchers who are leaving get Proclamations thanking them for their service to our community, and get the recognition they deserve. The Chief replied that he would.

MOTION by Pucci, second by Tanski to adjourn to Executive Session for purposes of discussing labor negotiations with the Mayor, Law and Finance Directors. **VOTE RESULTED:** *Adjourn to Executive Session:* Yes: Pucci, Tanski, Celcherts, Gallagher, DeMarco. No: None. (**ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**)

Council adjourned to Executive Session and then reconvened.

MOTION by Gallagher, second by Celcherts to reconvene. **VOTE RESULTED:** *Reconvene:* Yes: Pucci, Tanski, Celcherts, Gallagher, DeMarco. No: None. (**RECONVENED**)

There being no further business, **MOTION** by Pucci, second by Celcherts to adjourn. **VOTE RESULTED:** *Adjourn:* Yes: Pucci, Tanski, Celcherts, Gallagher, DeMarco. No: None. (**ADJOURNED**)

Asst. Clerk of Council

President of Council